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CARTHAGE COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE JUNE 6, 1921.

HILLSBORO COLLEGE.

ADDRESS BY AMOS MILLER.

I come here today at the request of the President of Carthage College, Rev. H. D. Hoover, Ph. D., to speak of the "Lutheran College of the Far West," located at Hillsboro, Illinois, established seventy-five years ago. The founding of an institution of learning in any community is an event fraught with the hope by those participating, that it will develop a high standard of moral and intellectual character.

The building in which the Lutheran College was conducted, known in later years as the Hillsboro Academy, was erected in 1835 by public-spirited men of Hillsboro, most prominent of whom was John Tillson, who not only gave the land and the largest amount towards its erection, but also guaranteed to the teachers their full pay and presented the school with a fine set of philosophical apparatus, piano and other equipment.

Among the stockholders the name of Rev. Daniel Scherer of revered memory appears. He organized the Lutheran Church at Hillsboro in 1832, when the county was practically a wilderness.

The Academy, being the only educational institution of its kind for a long distance, it was liberally patronized by students from all sections of the West and South, some even as far south as the State of Louisiana. Upon its rolls were names which have since become famous in local and State history. Gov. Zadok Casey, educated his children here. Prominent families in the state at that time moved to Hillsboro to educate their children. Among them were Generals Kitchell

and Alexander of Paris, Thornton of Shelbyville, Harry Wilton of Greenville and others.

In 1846, while Rev. A. A. Trimper, a Lutheran minister, was principal of the Academy, a movement was put on foot, resulting in an Act of the General Assembly of Illinois, which was passed and approved January 22nd, 1847, granting a charter to the "Literary and Theological Institute of the Lutheran Church of the Far West," to be located at Hillsboro, Illinois. For five years following, the Academy was known as the Lutheran College, and was managed very successfully with Rev. Francis Springer, D. D., as president, while Rev. A. A. Trimper, his assistant, had charge of the female department in the Lyceum Building.

Believing Springfield a more favorable locality for the college, the Act of the General Assembly of Illinois of 1847 was amended, approved and in force June 21st, 1852. By this amendment certain persons named therein were created a body corporate and politic, for the purpose of founding and maintaining in or near the city of Springfield, Illinois, an institution of learning, to be known by the name of the "Illinois State University."

It may be of interest to give the names of the trustees of the Literary and Theological Institute at Hillsboro at that time. As given in the amendatory Act they were Revs. L. P. Ebjoern, E. J. Donmeyer, C. B. Thummel, Mr. J. P. Lilley, A. J. Stroh, Rev. Ephraim Miller, A. A. Trimper, Messrs. Edmund Miller, Absalom Cress, David Gregory, Jacob Cress, Jr., and Francis Springer, D. D. These, most of whom resided in Hillsboro, together with John T. Stuart, James C. Conkling, Richard V. Dodge, Elijah Iles, and Rev. Simeon W. Harkey, nearly all of the latter, resided in Springfield, constituted the first board of trustees of the "Illinois State University." From 1847 to 1852, while a Lutheran College, it was generally known as the "Hillsboro College," and was a popular Hillsboro enterprise, and had the support of the citizens of the community, without regard to denominational lines. At one time, Dr. Springer, of whom I shall speak later, Dr.

A. A. Trimper and others, circulated a petition to partly endow the college. The plan was to raise, by subscription to scholarships, the sum of \$10,000, the interest to be used in running the institution, paying its instructors, etc. One subscribing \$125 would be given a scholarship good for twelve years; one subscribing \$200 received a scholarship good for twenty-five years, while one subscribing for \$400 received a perpetual scholarship. The fund was raised and quite a number of young people received the tuitional part of their education from these scholarships. They were transferable, and frequently poor young men were allowed to use them without charge by the owners as an act of philanthropy. With the surrender of the charter and the removal of the college from Springfield, these scholarships became worthless. In April, 1852, the institution began operations in the city of Springfield. It may be with modest pride that the citizens of Hillsboro and their Lutheran friends claim the honor of founding the first "Illinois State University," and that the Hillsboro College is the *alma mater* of Carthage College, our present progressive and prosperous institution, whose diamond Jubilee we are celebrating today. Her influence has directed the intellectual and moral forces of many students and alumni of several states of the Middle West.

The early struggles and career of a prosperous and successful college is often lost sight of, yet it is marked by vigorous, sometimes vehement, struggles to free or avoid the obstructions to progress and success. Like the broad, deep river, which rolls its majestic waters to the sea with scarcely a ripple on its bosom, tells but little of the movements of the mountain stream it once was, of the chasms it has leaped, of the precipices over which it has fallen, of the mountains through which it has cleft its way, of its devious course to avoid what it could not surmount, until in its well defined channel it becomes the source of blessing to all within the range of its beneficent influence.

If the time allotted me permitted, I would speak of some of the pioneers who gave their energies and ability to instruct

the young in the Hillsboro College. Among them was Prof. Edmund Miller, a Lutheran, and an able teacher, full of enthusiasm, kind in disposition, ready at all times to help along and encourage young people. The late Judge Edward Lane of Hillsboro, a distinguished lawyer and a member of Congress for four terms, gives Prof. Miller the credit for getting his education. When Judge Lane, a lad of sixteen years of age, came to Hillsboro he had not then learned to read or write, he told me. Prof. Miller soon met him and suggested he should come to school at the Academy. Lane did not want to do this, giving as his reason, he was so big and overgrown, he did not want to be in classes of small boys and girls, it would be embarrassing to him. Prof. Miller replied we can arrange that all right, you come to my home and I will give you private lessons until you are advanced far enough to go in classes of your age and size. This he did, and Judge Lane, at the age of sixteen, began his schooling.

Rev. Francis Springer, D. D., who had charge of the Lutheran College while it was in Hillsboro, it was my good fortune to know personally in latter years. To know him was to revere and love him. His qualities of mind and heart compelled one's admiration. It was a delight, as well as a source of information and instruction to hear him in conversation. He possessed a large fund of general information, and his style of preaching was impressive, dignified and eloquent. His manners were courteous, and in his intercourse with people he was genial and full of kindness. In stature he was of stocky build, rather under size in height, large chest and shoulders, dark complexion, with a large head containing a very large, active and fertile brain.

He was not only an able teacher and an eloquent preacher, but was an all-round man, abreast with the times, interested in all internal improvements and the social betterment of the community in which he lived. From his personal experience he would relate incidents, which, when told by him were interesting stories, as the following one will show: "In the early fifties the people along the line of the Terre Haute, Alton and

St. Louis Railroad (now the Big Four), were called on by the company to lend the credit of their respective counties in aid of the enterprise. Doctor Springer was residing at Hillsboro, in Montgomery county, he was president of the then young and thriving Lutheran College at that place. He volunteered with Hon. E. Y. Rice and Judge William Brewer to go forth among the people to induce them to vote for a subscription by the county of \$50,000, which was finally carried by a majority of only seven votes. In a record of the incident written by himself, I will quote as follows: He says, 'I had an appointment at Van Burenburg, a place now nearly gone to decay. Within a few days of the time for me to fill the engagement, information was brought to Hillsboro that the people down there were hostile to the railroad, that I would not be permitted to address them on the subject, and that I might receive bodily injury if I should go there. However, I went, Judge Samuel Haller and Rev. A. A. Trimper accompanying. As we neared the place, the unfriendly reports grew more numerous. My clerical brother became alarmed and advised retreat. Judge Haller on the other hand, said, "No, go on, and we'll see." A large gathering of men and boys awaited the speaker. They were seated on the ground, or standing against the trees. In the midst of my speech a flask was drawn from the pocket of a young man directly in front of me. It was handed round until it came to a youngster who held it towards me and inquired, "Say, little preacher, wouldn't you like to have a little of the critter?" "Not just now, I thank you," was my reply, as pleasantly as I knew how. About an hour's talk, in which I did my best to convince them of the many advantages of the railroad, and how easy it would be for the county to pay the \$50,000, a venerable citizen, a Baptist preacher, originally from Kentucky, arose to reply. His name was Sears—familiarly called "Pap" Sears. Never, perhaps, was a public speaker more completely discomfitted, overwhelmed and utterly "used up," than I was.

"Now, boys, I'm going to tell you that this 'ere tarnation thing they call a railroad is nothing but a Yankee invention.

Now boys, hold out your hands, here's mine. You see your hands and mine show work. Look at the little preacher's hands—jest feel of 'em, if you want to; they're as soft as a baby's hands. And then, when that tarnal thing comes thunderin' and smokin' and snortin' and screamin' over the prairie and through the woods, it'll skeer all the cattle an' horses and hogs that it don't kill, clean off the farms. And besides, in less than six months there won't be a feather, a hoof or a hair of prairie chicken, turkey or deer in all these diggins'. Then whar are your guns? What are they good for when you've nothin' to shoot at?"

With all his singularities of grammar, Mr. Sears possessed the true ring of the orator and his oration to that crowd was the winning feature of that day's work. When the polling came, there was but one vote in that precinct in favor of the railroad.' "

At the breaking out of the Civil War, Doctor Springer gave up his position as City Superintendent of Schools in Springfield, for the purpose of volunteering for the ranks, but was refused by Capt. Ellsworth. He was soon, however, sought as chaplain by the officers of the Tenth Illinois Cavalry. His regiment, with others, fought their way to Fort Smith, Arkansas, an old military post of the United States, where, by order of the Secretary of War, he was made chaplain of the post. He did not believe in the arbitrament of arms for the adjustment of opinions, doctrine, policies and corrections of errors, but his intense loyalty and patriotism for and of his country impelled him to offer himself a sacrifice in defense of his country in the time of its peril. While at Fort Smith he was appointed superintendent of the Freedman's Bureau, and wisely and energetically managed its affairs. One of the stories he told, of his experiences in that relation was one of an old colored woman coming to the office one day to see him, and when he found time to listen to her story it proved to be a request for a *bureau*. She said she had never had one, and it was something she had always wanted, and having heard

that Uncle Sam was *giving a bureau* to all the freed colored people, she wanted to apply for her share of the government bounty, and would "Marse Springah" please pick her out a nice one. Dr. Springer was elected in 1873 county superintendent of schools of Montgomery county, serving for a term of four years.

As an inspiration and guide to the younger generation, it is helpful to relate the personal characteristics of a truly great and good man. This I have attempted in rather a desultory way, but I have not spoken of his humble birth in Franklin county, Pa., of his being left an orphan boy when only six years old, his mother dying first, when he was so young that he retained only the dimmest remembrance of her, of his being indentured until he should be twenty-one to an innkeeper, who was by the terms of the indenture to give him only six months' schooling; that his desire to acquire more education, through the advice of friends, at the age of fifteen years, left, with only a "fipenny bit" as the stock of his finance, went to Hagerstown, Maryland. Here, weary and hungry, he drifted up against a benevolent citizen who heard the lad wished to learn a trade. An engagement was entered into by which he remained with his benefactor four years, during which time he learned sign and ornamental painting. It was during this period he attended a course of instruction in the Lutheran Catechism and united with the church by confirmation. The suggestion that he educate himself for the ministry was made, which suggestion, after due and careful thought, was accepted, and he went to Pennsylvania College and Hartwick Seminary, N. Y., for his education. After being ordained as minister of the gospel, he came to Illinois, where he engaged in teaching and preaching, and as president of the Lutheran College at Hillsboro, which position he resigned after the removal to Springfield, but remained a member of the board of trustees of Carthage College until his death.

The far-reaching influence of a man of his type and culture is hard to estimate. He believed in education and en-

deavored to inspire in the young a love and a desire for knowledge. He was intensely patriotic and loyal to the principles of freedom and to the doctrines of the Lutheran Church. When he came to Illinois, then the "Far West," there were no railroads at that time in the State, no telegraphs nor telephones. The means for travel then were by the slow stage coach, over prairies where there were no roads and across streams without bridges. Abounding with enthusiasm, he faced the future and an unknown and untried country to him, to build up high ideals in the minds of the young in the West at Hillsboro. It is men of such character, with will and foresight, who have laid the cornerstone of our educational system, in fact, of our great government; to the arms of men like Doctor Springer we are to intrust the safety and custody of our government and its institutions, in all time to come with the hope and trust future generations may continue to enjoy the blessings of religious and civil liberty. Men who became prominent as preachers, lawyers, jurists, and in other callings, received their education at the Lutheran College at Hillsboro during the time it was under the direction of the Lutheran Church and Doctor Springer, and after it ceased to be the Church's institution, private school from time to time was conducted there by Lutheran instructors. Among those receiving their education, at least in part, if not all, were Rev. G. A. Bowers, D. D.; Judge J. J. Phillips, who became a member of the Supreme Court of Illinois; Hon. Edward Lane, who served four terms in Congress; Hon. J. M. Truitt; Hon. George W. Paisley, a member of the Senate of Illinois, and many others who could be named, were proud of the fact they received their education and inspiration from the Hillsboro College.

In 1880, after nearly a half century, the ground on which the Academy building stood, was transferred to the city to be used as a public school. In 1887 the old building, a two-story frame parallelogram, a portico in front, with four large fluted columns, doric capitals supporting the gable, in the triangle of which a design of an open book or Bible from

within which radiated rays of light or halo, was removed to a vacant lot in the south part of Hillsboro, where it now stands in the process of disintegration, decay and dilapidation. To perpetuate its architectural simplicity and beauty, the public library, built of stone and brick just across the street from the old Academy site, is architecturally a replica of it.

Doctor Springer and others who were active as instructors in the active days of the Lutheran College at Hillsboro, are dead, but their deeds live. They live in the memories of those yet living who knew them. The art of printing and the mighty elements of nature now impressed into the service of mankind, give every action on the stage of life, the need of immortality and hand down to posterity the good and evil of every generation and actor. Should not this fact prompt us to an exalted idealism, and to earnest efforts looking to the greatest good of our fellowmen, inspiring in the souls of men and women a flame of patriotic devotion to the truth, and holding out a new hope to civilization, to the end that error shall be crushed, and that truth and righteousness shall be triumphant.